Remarks

The Office Action dated November 23, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-7 and 9-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1-16 stand rejected. Claim 8 has been canceled.

The objection to Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, and 12-16 for informalities is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 12-16 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the cited informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, and 12-16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8-10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

Claims 9-10 and 16 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis problems. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 8-10 and 16 are definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 8-10 and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Ohta (US 5,780,129) is respectfully traversed.

Ohta describes a multi-layered blow-molded hollow article, for example, an automobile bumper. The automobile bumper includes a main bumper body (1) made from glass reinforced

ABS having a molding shrinking factor of 0.5%, and a surface portion(2) made of an olefinic elastomeric resin having a molding shrinking factor of 1.8%. The two layers are secured to each other by a clamping force caused by the difference in the molding shrinking factors of the two layers. Ohta does not describe nor suggest a blow molded unitary energy absorber.

Claim 1 of the present application recites an energy absorber that comprises "a blow molded unitary structure having a rearward facing support portion and a crushable forward projecting portion adapted to crush upon the impact, said support portion comprising a flange extending around a periphery of said support portion for attaching said energy absorber to a bumper beam".

Ohta does not describe nor suggest an energy absorber as recited in Claim 1. Particularly, Ohta does not describe nor suggest an energy absorber that is a blow molded unitary structure having a support portion that includes a flange extending around the periphery of the support portion for attaching the energy absorber to a bumper beam. Rather, Ohta describes a non-unitary multi-layered automobile bumper that does not include a support potion having a flange extending around its periphery. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Ohta.

Claims 2-7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of dependent Claims 2-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-7 likewise are patentable over Ohta.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102(b) rejection of Claims 1-7 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamada et al. (US 6,406,079) in view of Ohta (US 5,780,129) is respectfully traversed.

Tamada et al. describe an automobile bumper that includes a fascia and a pair of bumper cores that are interposed between the fascia and the car body. Each bumper core includes an front wall, an opposing rear wall, a pair of opposing side walls, and a plurality of ribs extending between the front and rear walls. Tamada et al. do not describe nor suggest an energy absorber that is a blow molded unitary structure having a support portion that includes a flange extending around the periphery of the support portion for attaching the energy absorber to a bumper beam.

Tamada et al. and Ohta, alone or in combination, do not describe nor suggest an energy absorber as recited in Claim 1. Particularly, Tamada et al. and Ohta, alone or in combination, do not describe nor suggest an energy absorber that is a blow molded unitary structure having a support portion that includes a flange extending around the periphery of the support portion for attaching the energy absorber to a bumper beam. Rather, as explained above, Ohta describes a non-unitary multi-layered automobile bumper that does not include a support potion having a flange extending around its periphery. Further, Tamada et al. describe a pair of bumper cores with each having a front and a rear wall. However, Tamada et al. do not describe a support portion that includes a flange extending around the periphery of the support portion for attaching the energy absorber to a bumper beam. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Tamada et al. and Ohta, alone or in combination.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

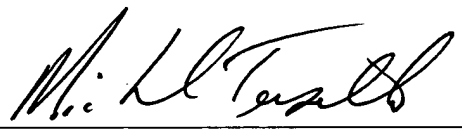
Claims 2-7 and 9-16 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1,

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-7 9-16 likewise are patentable over Tamada et al. and Ohta, alone or in combination.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 1-16 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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